



CALL FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PROPOSALS

Taku ahi tūtata taku mata kikoha, taku ahi tawhiti taku mata kiporo

Keeping close to one's passion (fire) to become and remain skilled and adept (sharp).

When a cause (*fire or ahi*) is close to one's heart and interest,
the commitment, passion (*point or kikoha*) is always greater.

The further away from the fire the more uninterested one becomes.

Te Kupenga Whakaoti Mahi Patunga/National Network of Family Violence Services (NZ) Inc invites expressions of interest from individuals and organisations to present at its 2024 Aotearoa/New Zealand National Family Violence Conference **Te Ahi Kikoha**. The conference will be held at Tākina Conference & Convention Centre in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington on Wednesday 29 May and Thursday 30 May 2024.

The conference organisers invite expressions of interest on all aspects of work relating to family violence and/or sexual violence for the concurrent streams session of the conference. Please note we are NOT currently seeking keynote presentations.

Successful proposals will be allocated 20-30 minutes per presentation. We invite a range of contributions to the conference from researchers, practitioners and policy analysts and encourage a diversity of methods and approaches.

Possible provocative topics include:

- Why is our family violence response system unable to focus on and address **the sources of violence**? How do we ensure a system which holds the needs and wishes of victim/survivors at the heart of all mahi/work while committing to addressing and changing the behaviours of those who perpetrate violence?
- Do discussions about **masculinities** aid or hinder violence prevention and intervention? What are "toxic masculinities" and how do they inform increasingly extremist misogyny and the emergence of the "manosphere"? Is the "F word" (feminism) still relevant in understanding and addressing family and sexual violence?
- **Evaluation and data** beyond the anecdote. How do we prove the efficacy of interventions with those who perpetrate violence? Are "stopping violence programmes" still relevant or past their use-by date?

- **Motivations to violence.** Does the traditional “entitlement motivation” limit options for working with men who perpetrate violence? Does it blinker our understandings of both risk and safety? How does it explain or cloud our understanding of women’s violence when it occurs? Is the focus on “gangs” missing the point?
- **Kaupapa Māori research and models** - insights for preventing and responding to family and sexual violence. Avoiding Tauīwi colonisation of Māori knowledge and practices. How to support kaimahi Māori who shoulder the cultural load?
- What’s so special about **specialist workforces**? Does the notion of specialist speak to Te Ao Māori spaces? Is “specialisation” simply turf protection? How do tools like the Specialist Organisational Standards and the Entry to Expert Framework support or undermine the current and future family and sexual violence workforces?
- Is **Te Aorerekura/The National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence & Sexual Violence** achievable? Are we starting to break down “siloes thinking” or have we created more silos? Does the focus on “regionality” risk losing both local connections and nationally consistent prevention and response initiatives? What needs to change now to make the moemoeā/vision achievable?
- Building capacity around **intersectionality** – how best to support people who face multiple barriers – rainbow, older people, disabled people, people from culturally diverse backgrounds? How do we centre the voice and experiences of tamariki and rangatahi/children and youth? Culturally competent or culturally safe – is there a difference? How does an understanding of intersectionality inform or help us to support hard to reach populations and communities?
- **Risk and safety.** What’s the risk in risk assessment tools and how do we manage risk while simultaneously increasing safety? Risk “assessment” as a form of gatekeeping or thresholding? Whose job is it to manage risk? What is risk – risk to, risk from or both? How does who is analysing risk inform what risk is being analysed?
- **Practice initiatives.** Creative approaches, novel programmes, innovative campaigns. Working with clients with co-existing conditions (drug and alcohol, mental health). Addressing the relentless call for the “bright, shiny and new initiative”. Initiatives informed by whānau voice – what does it look like, how do we do it? Restorative justice – does it have a place in family violence cases? “Working with what’s in the room” rather than prescriptive programme content. Avoiding collusion with those who perpetrate violence. New approaches to crisis and long-term support of victim/survivors. Working at the intersections of family and sexual violence.

Guidelines

1. Proposed expressions of interest must be on the Expression of Interest Form which accompanies this Call for Conference Papers and Proposals. A further copy of the Expression of Interest can be accessed [HERE](#).
2. The completed Expression of Interest Form should be emailed to the Conference Organiser, Howard Dawson at conference@nnfvs.org.nz
3. Expressions of interest close at 5:00pm on **Friday 2 February 2024**. You will receive an acknowledgement of your Expression of Interest via email.
4. The outcomes of the Expression of Interest process will be communicated to you on or about Friday 23 February 2024.
5. While presentations from teams/groups of individuals are welcome, we provide only one free registration and one reduced registration per accepted paper/presentation.

For more information contact the conference organiser Howard Dawson:
conference@nnfvs.org.nz